8. Election of members to the Road Board

Mr. President : Now three members are required for the Road Board and only three nominations have been received. These are (1) Mr. Ittiera Ambooken proposed by Mr. C. V. Iyyu and seconded by Mr. Mohamed Ayoob Sait (2) Mr. T. K. Kunjayyappan proposed by Mr. K. T. Achuthan and seconded by Mr. K. Kochukuttan and (3) Mr. K. C. Mayankutty Mather proposed by Mr. P. K. Dewer and seconded by Mr. C. U. Narayanan. So these members are declared duly elected to the Road Board.

9. Reference from the Chair on the demise of His Highness Sree Kerala Varma, the Maharaja of Cochin

Mr. President : Now we come to the reference on the demise of His Highness Sree Kerala Varma, the Maharaja of Cochin. It is with deep sorrow that I refer to the demise of His Highness, the late Maharaja. He was a great statesman-ruler. The period of His Highness' reign was an epoch-making one. It was he who granted practically full responsible Government to the people, and announced its completion in the very near future. This very Assembly that has gathered here is the best proof of his liberal outlook and progressive views. The idea of a united Kerala was given great impetus by His Highness, which earned for him the admiration of the whole of India. Among the Princes of India, His Highness was the first to agree to accede to the Indian Union. In the Princely Order of India, He shone as a great luminary. In so many ways, under him our State earned the reputation of being one of the best and most progressive among Indian States.

His personality had a charm and suavity of its own. Simple and unassuming, His Highness was easily accessible to all. The people loved him and the people mourn for so good and great a Ruler. May His soul rest in peace.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warrier *(Prime Minister):* Mr. President, Sir, I would like to associate myself wholeheartedly with the sentiments you have so felicitously expressed. His Highness Sri Kerala Varma, whose sad demise we are bemoaning, was one of the most liberal minded Rulers of our State.

It was during His Highness's regime that the State witnessed the erection of the superstructure of full responsible Government on the foundations laid down by his predecessors. Almost all the important departments of Government were transferred to Ministerial control and even the few that had not been formally transferred were left in the hands of a popular Minister. His Highness also announced that full responsible Government with complete transfer of all departments of administration, except Devaswams and Palaces, would be made over to Ministers immediately after the general elections based on adult franchise. This noble idea of His Highness of a Government in complete charge of elected Ministers is an accomplished fact today.

It is also worthy of mention in this connection that His Highness with his clear vision of the historic role of the past of Kerala gave an impetus to the idea of Aikya Kerala by his notable pronouncements on more than one occasion. It is indeed a matter for sincere regret that His Highness did not live to see the fulfilment of his cherished dream in this direction.

It was again left to His Highness to issue a Proclamation throwing open almost all Hindu temples of the State to all sections of the Hindus. It was a reform long overdue for which the reformist section of the Hindus had been clamouring.

Almost from times immemorial, it has been the tradition with the Rulers of Cochin to be constitutionally-minded; but it was left to His Highness Sri Kerala Varma to be its first Constitutional Ruler. Under His Highness's leadership, our State was the first to accede to the Indian Union, and that at a stage when Rulers of most other States were hesitant and wavering.

From all points of view, therefore, it is a great loss that we have sustained in His Highness' demise, and I am sure that for ages to come his will be a name that will be gratefully cherished in the recollections of our people.

May His Highness' soul rest in peace.

Dr. C. L. Joseph *(Irinjalakkuda):* I endorse all the sentiments expressed by the Prime Minister.

മിസ്റ്റർ കോടനാട്ട് നാരായണൻ നമ്പൂതിരിപ്പാട്: സർ, എന്റെ സ്വന്തം നിലക്കും ഞാൻ ഉൾപ്പെട്ട പാർട്ടിയുടെ പ്രതിനിധിയെന്നനിലക്കും ഈ വിഷയത്തിൽ എനിക്കുകൂടി രണ്ടു വാക്കു പറയുവാനുള്ള ഔത്സുക്യമുണ്ട്. വാസ്തവത്തിൽ പൂർണ്ണാധികാരം സിദ്ധിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള

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